

72-19/6

13 APR 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Countersubversion - A Continuing CIA
Responsibility

1. May I express my appreciation for the excellent comments received with respect to my draft on this subject. They are totally convincing in their recommendation that no attempt be made to stir this subject on the NSC level or to try to make it a high-priority interagency activity. Perhaps the best indication of their accuracy on this point is the fact that only one mentioned NSDM 20 of 10 July 1969 on U.S. Foreign Internal Defense Policy or the Foreign Internal Defense Policy of 23 May 1968, and that one only incidentally. These represented an update of the 1962 policy to which I referred in my draft. The almost total lack of mention of these 1968 and 1969 directives at this time certainly suggests that the NSC route is not the way to go to get real attention to this topic.

2. The topic in my view remains important, however, particularly for CIA. Because of this I have redrafted the papers earlier circulated into one calling for a special CIA effort in this field. This new paper incorporates, I hope, most of the points made in your comments and modifies other respects as well. Its approach identifies a continuing CIA responsibility and tries to define how we should be going about it. To the extent that this may lead the rest of the community into appropriate steps, it would merely be another of the situations in which CIA initiatives have done just that. At the same time, I hope it reflects my thought that our approach to this matter be sober and in proportion to the problem and our ability to address it in the context of our other responsibilities, of which I am well aware we have many.

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activities into one overall strategy to ensure that a fully effective program is prosecuted rather than independent activities with gaps and lack of coordination leading to a flawed result. I believe that CIA can play a leading role in identifying the need for such a strategy and articulating its specifics, so that responsibilities can plainly be assigned among all agencies.

4. I would appreciate your reviewing this memorandum and providing comments on it. After coordination, I would propose to present it to the Director for issuance as a guideline for CIA action against which we could make program decisions and review progress periodically.

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

Attachments:

- 1 - Countersubversion - A Continuing CIA Responsibility, 13 April 1972
- 2 - Foreign Police Forces - Opportunities in the 1970's, 13 April 1972

WEC:sfc

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Remarks: <u>B.II</u> : Agree that new focus on Agency role in countersubversion is required. Three points of comment/clarification: (1) <u>Inter-agency resource implications:</u> absence of police labs, radios, handcuffs, etc., easily leads us, thru liaison, to pay for basics. (2) <u>Rule of Law:</u> ambiguous to non-lawyer. Presume the Communists and the fascists have a "rule of law." (3) <u>Organization within CIA:</u> This could be important enough to warrant new staff. And it maybe takes a new kind of guy--an educated cop.			
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